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STAR WARS™

DARTH MAUL



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DARTH MAUL

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DARTH MAUL

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PAUL RENAUD

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DARTH MAUL

Book I, Part II

Darth Maul's moment of revenge against the Jedi is close at hand. Although, his Sith master — the mysterious Darth Sidious — has commanded Maul to be patient. But Maul's seething rage cannot be contained.

Maul has discovered that a Jedi Padawan has been captured by the Xrexus Cartel. The Padawan is to be auctioned off to the highest bidder in short order. Ignoring his master's orders to avoid the Jedi at all costs, Maul sets out to find this Padawan before the Knights of her order do the same.

He must work in secrecy, though, for if Sidious discovers his disobedience, the punishment will be severe....

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Nar Shaddaa.

THIS IS A PLACE
OF SECRETS--
MYSTERIES AS DEEP
AS SPACE ITSELF.

MANY COME
HERE TO LIE
LOW...

...TO SEEK SANCTUARY
IN A PLACE WHERE
EVERYONE HAS
SOMETHING TO HIDE.

OTHERS COME TO
UNCOVER THESE
HIDDEN TRUTHS...

...TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND THAT
WHICH THEY WERE
NOT MEANT TO
KNOW AT ALL.

THEY SAY YOU CAN BUY
ALMOST ANYTHING HERE
ON THE SMUGGLER'S
MOON...

...IF YOU ARE
WILLING TO PAY
WITH YOUR LIFE.

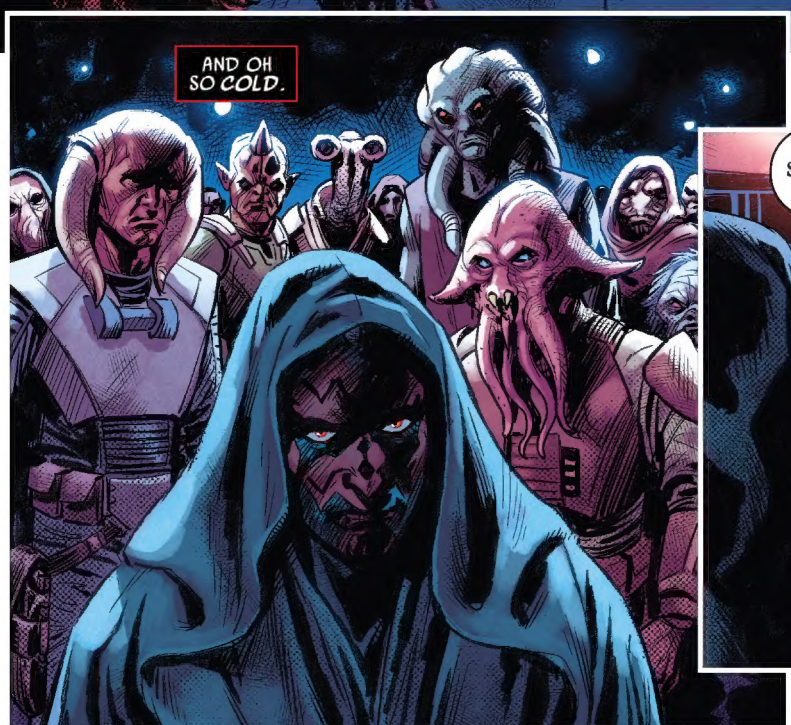
THAT IS A PRICE
I AM UNWILLING
TO MEET.



MY LIFE ENDS ONLY
WHEN MY RAGE HAS
BEEN VENTED...

...WHEN MY NEED
FOR VENGEANCE
IS SATISFIED.

IT WILL BE A
LONG LIFE.



AND OH
SO COLD.



SEE HERE,
SON. YOU CAN
ALWAYS TELL,
YES?

WHEN SOMEONE COMES
LOOKING FOR INFORMATION,
THERE'S A SUBTLE SHIFT
IN THE AIR.

YOU'LL COME TO
KNOW IT WELL. THERE
ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE
LOOKING TO TRADE IN
CONFIDENCES...

...AND IT'S
ALMOST NEVER
WORTH IT.



XEV
XREXUS.

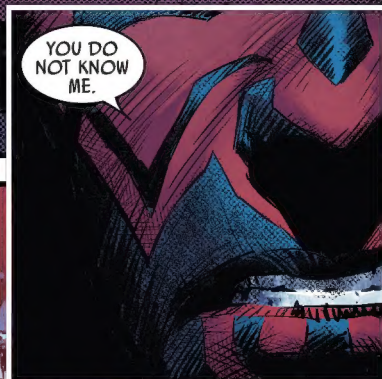


WHAT'S THAT NOW? IS THAT A
NAME? BECAUSE I'VE NEVER
HEARD IT BEFORE.

EH?

AH--IS
THAT A FELLOW
ZABRAK
I SEE?

AND A NIGHTB--



YOU DO
NOT KNOW
ME.



I MEANT
NO HARM,
FRIEND.

BUT YOU'VE
COME TO THE WRONG
PLACE. MY CUSTOMERS
DON'T APPRECIATE
QUESTIONS.

PERHAPS IT
IS BEST IF YOU
JUST LEFT...*QUIETLY*...
BEFORE YOU GET
HURT.



XEV
XREXUS.



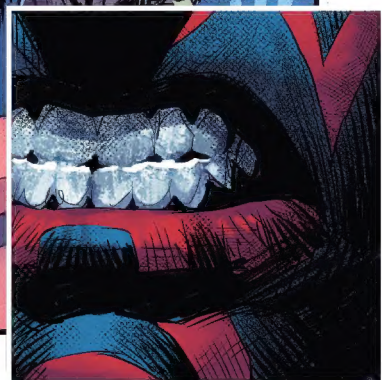
LISTEN, YOU DON'T COME IN
HERE SAYING *THAT* NAME
UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR *TROUBLE*.

WE KNOW WHAT XEV XREXUS IS UP
TO, YEAH, AND WE AIN'T SAYING
NOTHING ABOUT IT TO THE
LIKES OF YOU.

ONLY
PEOPLE ASKING
QUESTIONS LIKE
THAT ARE
JEDI.



IS THAT
WHAT YOU ARE--
SOME SORT
OF *JEDI*
LACKEY?



IN TRUTH, I
EXPECTED THESE
FOOLS TO REMAIN
SILENT.

I HAVE
OTHER MEANS
OF GATHERING
INTEL.

BUT I LOATHE ONLY
ONE THING MORE
THAN THE ACCURSED
JEDI.

AND THAT IS
WAITING.

I KNEW, AT LEAST,
THAT THE TAVERN'S
PATRONS WOULD AFFORD
ME SOME DISTRACTION
IF NOT ANSWERS.

INSTINCTIVELY,
I REACH FOR MY
LIGHTSABER.

WITH IT IN HAND, THE BATTLE
WOULD END ALMOST AS
SOON AS IT HAD BEGUN.

BUT NO.

TO IGNITE THE
LIGHTSABER WOULD
BE TO REVEAL MY
TRUE NATURE.

THIS MOON AND ITS
SECRET-KEEPERS OWE
ME NO LOYALTY.

MY MASTER WOULD
LEARN OF MY
DISOBEDIENCE.

THE PUNISHMENT
WOULD BE SEVERE.





HRRRK!

HE
KILLED DIRTY
CALGRIZ!

HE'S
FAST!

NEVER
EVEN SAW
HIM THROW
THE KNIFE!



BUT HOW?
HE CAN'T
SEE!

DON'T
MATTER!
FRY HIM
WHERE HE
STANDS!



THANK
YOU FOR THE
HELP.

ALTHOUGH
YOU COULD
HAVE STEPPED IN
EARLIER.





AURRA SING.

CAD BANE.

IT LOOKED
LIKE YOU HAD
MATTERS WELL
IN HAND.

I'D WAGER
YOU COULD HAVE
GOTTEN YOURSELF
OUT OF THAT LITTLE
JAM...WITH OR
WITHOUT MY
HELP.

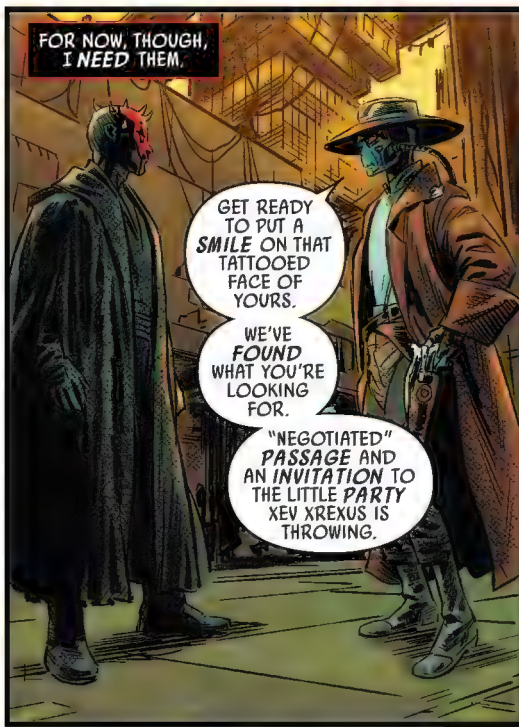
BUT THOSE
KILLS ARE STILL
GOING ON
YOUR TAB.

VORHDEILO.

A CADRE OF THE
MOST DEVIANT
BOUNTY HUNTERS
IN THE GALAXY.

ANOTHER TIME,
ANOTHER PLACE...I
MIGHT HAVE TESTED
MY METTLE...

...BY
HUNTING
THEM.



"KEV'S A
SMART ONE."

"HER LITTLE
SHINDIG'S TAKING
PLACE OUTSIDE
REPUBLIC SPACE..."

"...AND SHE'S
ARRANGED SEVERAL
DECOY EVENTS TO
KEEP THE LAW DOGS
CHASING THEIR TAILS."

BUT WE'VE GOT
AN INVITATION
TO THE REAL
DEAL.

HOW
CAN YOU BE
SURE?

HEY--YOUR SPY
DROIDS DISCOVERED
THIS FREIGHTER.

YOU GONNA
DOUBT YOUR
OWN TECH THE WAY
YOU'RE DOUBTING
ME AND MINE?

THE SHIP
BELONGED TO
THE HADDREX
GANG.

THEY DIDN'T
TAKE KINDLY TO OUR
GENTLE REQUEST FOR
PASSAGE TO KEV'S
HIDEOUT.

SO WE
ASKED A
LITTLE MORE
FORCEFULLY.

OH, DEAR!

PLEASE!
SOMEONE
HELP ME!

SOMEONE
CALL THIS LITTLE
BEAST OFF!

AW! YOU
GOT HERE TOO
SOON!

THE DROID'S
STILL BEING A BIT
STUBBORN!

TROO-TRIL-TEK...CALLED
"TEK-TEK" BY HIS FRIENDS...
IS THE LAST MEMBER OF CAD
BANE'S GROUP.

A SABOTEUR AND
DROID SPECIALIST.

HE TAKES A
LITTLE TOO MUCH
JOY IN HIS WORK.

ISN'T
QUITE READY TO
TELL US WHAT
WE WANT.



DROID--
WHAT IS YOUR
DESIGNATION?

I AM FE-B3.

MY MASTERS...

...MY...UHM...
FORMER
MASTERS...

...CALLED
ME FEE-BEE.



FEE-BEE.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT MY
ASSOCIATES AND
I WANT?

YES, OF
COURSE.

YOU WANT THE LOCALE OF
THE AUCTION XEV XREXUS
IS HOLDING, AS WELL AS
THE VERIFICATION
CODES REQUIRED TO
ATTEND THE EVENT.

BUT I DO NOT HAVE
THE INFORMATION
YOU WANT.



PERHAPS
YOU SIMPLY
DO NOT
REMEMBER.

PERHAPS
YOU NEED
SOMETHING TO
REMINDE
YOU.

YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND.

MY ROLE UPON
THE SHIP IS TO
SIMPLY ACT AS
TRANSLATOR--



AH!
MY...MY
EYES!

I
CANNOT
SEE!



CONSIDER IT A GIFT
FROM A DEAD
FRIEND.

HE RECENTLY SHOWED ME JUST
HOW UNSETTLING IT CAN BE TO
HAVE YOUR EYESIGHT STRIPPED
FROM YOU.

PERHAPS
YOU'LL FIND
THIS TO BE A
BLESSING.

YOU WILL
NOT BE ABLE
TO SEE WHAT
TEK-TEK DOES
TO YOU.



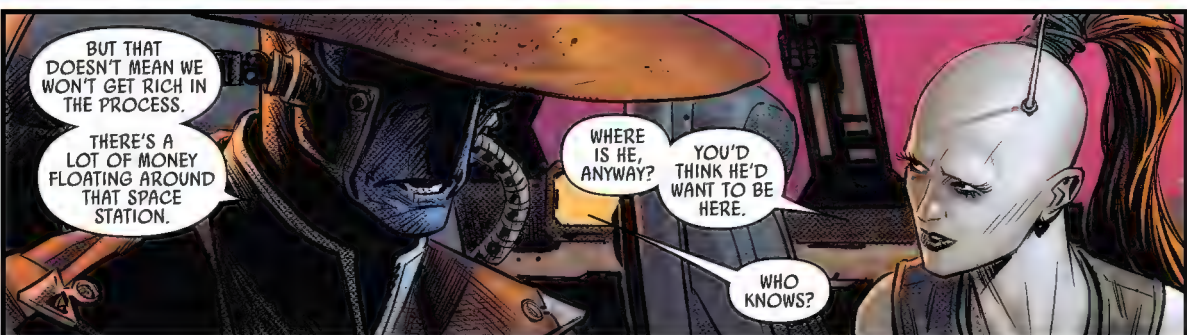
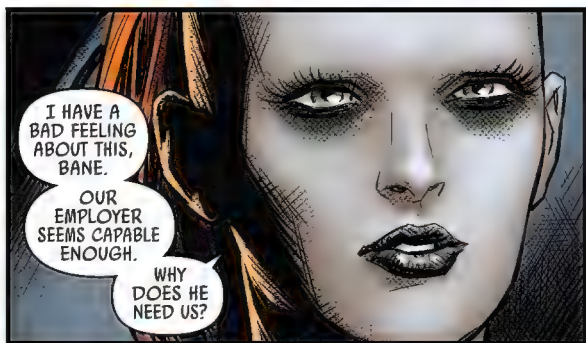
ALL RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT.

PLEASE,
NO MORE.

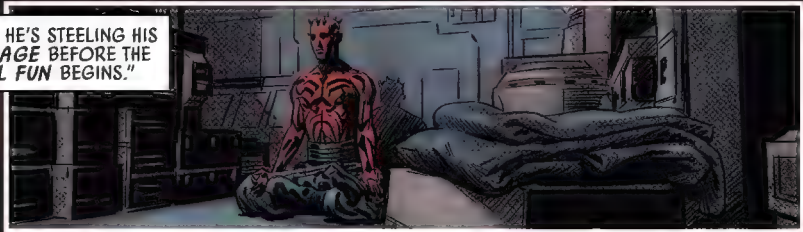
I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT YOU WANT
TO KNOW.

"I'LL GUIDE
YOU TO
KEV XREXUS."

The Drazkel System.

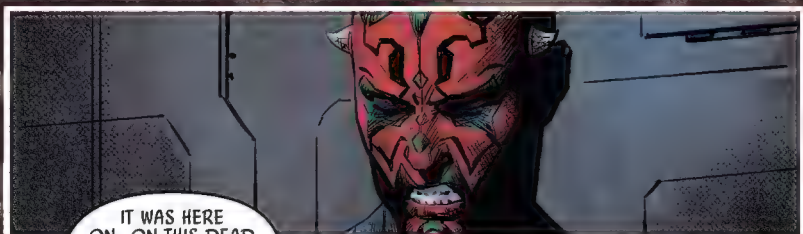


"MAYBE HE'S STEELING HIS
COURAGE BEFORE THE
REAL FUN BEGINS."



DO YOU
KNOW THIS
PLACE, MY
APPRENTICE?

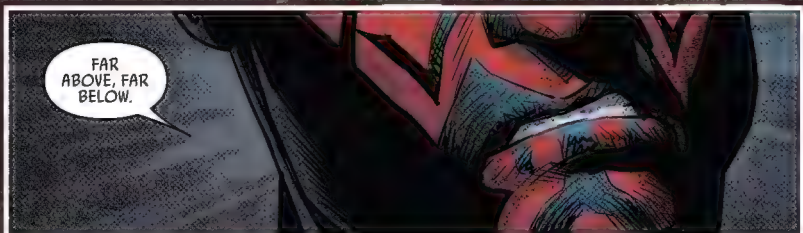
YES,
MASTER.
I HAVE
SEEN IT...IN MY
DREAMS.



IT WAS HERE
ON...ON THIS DEAD
WORLD...THAT THE JEDI
STRUCK A TERRIBLE
BLOW AGAINST
THE SITH.

MANY OF
OUR ORDER
WERE STRUCK
DOWN.

ALL
BECAUSE THEY
WANTED TO BE
FREE.



FAR
ABOVE, FAR
BELOW.

BREATHE
IT IN, MY
APPRENTICE.

BREATHE IN
THE ASH OF THE
EMPIRE THAT CAME
BEFORE.

GHHK--

LET
THE HATE
FILL YOU.



"FAR ABOVE,
FAR BELOW."

"WE DON'T
KNOW WHERE
WE'LL FALL."

"FAR ABOVE,
FAR BELOW."

"WHAT ONCE
WAS GREAT
IS RENDERED
SMALL."

THIS WAS THE *MANTRA*
I WAS TAUGHT TO HELP
ME *FOCUS* MY HATE
AND MY ANGER...

...TO HELP ME
ENDURE...

...AS THE SITH BEFORE
ME HAD ENDURED
TREACHERY AND
UNTOLD PAIN...

...THEIR LIBERTY
STRIPPED
FROM THEM...

...STOLEN BY THE
MURDEROUS
JEDI...



AAAGH!

COWARDS AND
ASSASSINS...

...ONE
AND ALL...

FAR
ABOVE...
...FAR
BELOW...

THE JEDI...SO
PROUD OF THEIR
LACK OF EMOTION...

...IRONICALLY SO
AFRAID OF THOSE
WHO SOUGHT A
DIFFERENT WAY.

NGGYAH!

...TREACHEROUS
HYPOCRITES...

FIGHT
ME!
CURSE
YOU! FIGHT
ME!

I FELT THE BURN
OF A THOUSAND
CUTS...

...THE DEATHS
OF A THOUSAND
SITH...

...AND THEY WERE
MADE STRONGER...

...IN ME...

...THEY WERE--

W-WHAT
ONCE WAS
G-GREAT...
...IS
RENDERED
SMALL...

THE SITH
DESERVE THEIR
REVENGE.

=GASP!=

I. DESERVE
MY REVENGE.

AND NO MAN...
NO JEDI... NO
MASTER...

...WILL
DENY ME.

TAKE A
LOOK AROUND,
BOSS.

THERE'S A
LOT OF **MONEY**
IN THIS ROOM. MORE
THAN A FEW **BOUNTIES**
ON MORE THAN A
FEW **HEADS**.

WHAT SAY WE
FORGET ABOUT THIS
VENDETTA OF YOURS
AND WORK TOGETHER
TO COLLECT A BIG
PAYOFF.

MONEY IS OF
NO INTEREST
TO ME.

IF IT WERE,
I MIGHT NOT BE
WILLING TO PAY **SO**
EXORBITANTLY
FOR YOUR
SERVICES.

=SNORT! THAT'S A POOR EXCUSE FOR A
PROTOCOL DROID!

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ITS EYES?

IT DIDN'T
MIND ITS OWN
BUSINESS.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO
START A
FIGHT?

FEH. IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN
SOONER OR LATER, DON'T
YOU THINK?

I SUPPOSE
SO. WHENEVER
HE SAYS
SO.

GOOD
EVENING,
FRIENDS.
WELCOME
TO MY HUMBLE
ABODE.



I SEE SO MANY EAGER
FACES AMONG
YOU...

...SOME
FAMILIAR...

...SOME
NEW TO
ME.

BUT IF
YOU HAVE BEEN
WELCOMED INTO THESE
HALLS, YOU ARE IN STORE
FOR A SINGULAR
DELIGHT.

FOR ONE
OF YOU...FOR THE
HIGHEST BIDDER...
THE RAREST OF
PRIZES AWAITS.

I AM YOUR
HOSTESS--
KEV XREXUS--AND
IT IS MY HONOR TO
FACILITATE THIS
LITTLE SOIREE.



RECENTLY, SCAVENGERS IN MY
EMPLOY STUMBLED UPON A
REPUBLIC TRANSPORT VESSEL THAT
HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY
PIRATES.

ALMOST
EVERYONE ON
BOARD--INCLUDING
THE JEDI KNIGHT
ESCORT--WAS
KILLED IN THE
CRASH.

BUT
THERE WAS
ONE SURVIVOR...
AND IT IS THIS
INDIVIDUAL WHO
HAS BROUGHT
YOU HERE
TONIGHT.



ELDRA
KAITIS.

A JEDI
PADAWAN.

PERHAPS NOT AS
VALUABLE AS A JEDI
MASTER, BUT I THINK A
GROUP OF INNOVATORS
SUCH AS YOURSELVES WILL
FIND ALL MANNER OF
USES FOR A KNIGHT-
IN-TRAINING.

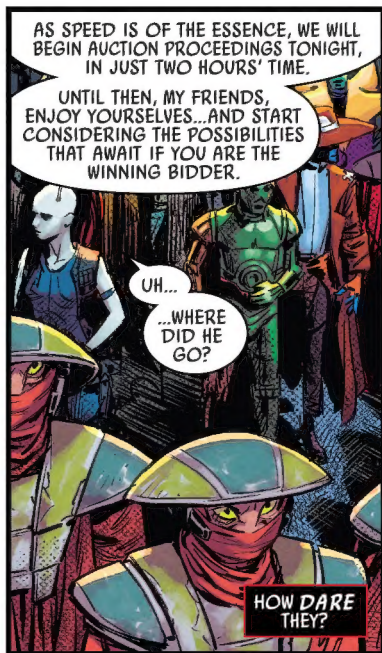


AS SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE, WE WILL
BEGIN AUCTION PROCEEDINGS TONIGHT,
IN JUST TWO HOURS' TIME.

UNTIL THEN, MY FRIENDS,
ENJOY YOURSELVES...AND START
CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITIES
THAT AWAIT IF YOU ARE THE
WINNING BIDDER.

UH...

...WHERE
DID HE
GO?



HOW DARE
THEY?



CRIMINALS AND
CUTTHROATS AND
PIRATES.

CERTAINLY, THEY EACH
HAVE THEIR OWN
UNSAVORY *REASONS*
FOR WANTING THE
PADAWAN.

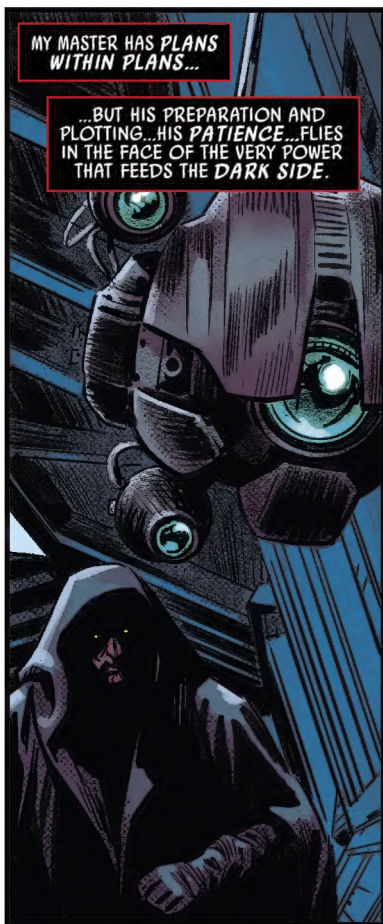


BUT NONE
CAN POSSIBLY
BE SO *PURE*
AS MY OWN.



සැබැති
දුර්වලතාවය

SHOW
ME.



MY MASTER HAS *PLANS*
WITHIN *PLANS*...

...BUT HIS PREPARATION AND
PLOTING...HIS *PATIENCE*...FLIES
IN THE FACE OF THE VERY POWER
THAT FEEDS THE *DARK SIDE*.



I CANNOT
TELL HIM THIS.

I WOULD NOT
SURVIVE SUCH
INSUBORDINATION.



BUT I CAN FIND
WAYS TO PLACATE
THE ANGER THAT
ROILS WITHIN ME...

...AND MY
MASTER NEED
NOT KNOW.

FOR SO LONG, I
HAVE WATCHED THE
JEDI FROM THE
SHADOWS...

...KNOWING THE STIFLING
CONFINES THAT MY SITH
PREDECESSORS MUST HAVE
FELT AS THEIR FREEDOMS
WERE TAKEN FROM THEM...

...BUT NEVER
HAVE I BEEN
SO CLOSE...

...SO CLOSE
TO MY
ENEMY...

...SO CLOSE TO
TASTING MY
RETRIBUTION...

...AS I
AM NOW.

WHO
ARE YOU
SUPPOSED
TO BE?

To be continued...

DARTH MAUL

NEXT ISSUE:

